

MINUTES AND REPORT

OF

MEETING OF COUNCIL

THE COOPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 18th May 1981 commencing 7 p.m.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

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1. PRESENT

Mr. J. N. Black	Chairman
Mr. A. Gill	
Mr. E. J. Long	
Mr. B. H. Macintosh	
Mr. A. Plant	
Mr. O. J. Slattery	
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson	Executive Officer

Apologies for absence received from:

Messrs. A. Dash, J. R. Rigby, M. Rundle

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2. MINUTES

Minutes of the Council meetings held 16th March and 31st March, having been circulated were adopted as a correct record of those meetings.

5. APPLICATIONS

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.i Meeting with Minister of Agriculture:

Copy of Direction of Minister to Departmental heads on use of Federation resources and inclusion of cooperatives in training and extension services was tabled.

3.ii Joint Operation C.F.V. and C.F.A.

The Chairman discussed the Victorian proposals with the President, C.F.A. Confirmatory follow-up correspondence sent. Formal response from Council C.F.A. awaited.

Council directed

*Urgent formal response be sought  
to enable budgeting to be undertaken.*

The Executive Officer has been nominated by C.F. N.S.W. as Course Director of the International Study Course to be funded by the Commonwealth Government. Mr. Rawlinson spent two weeks in New South Wales preparing budget, drafting programme, organising venues, some lecturers and field visits.

The Council

6. FINANCIAL

Statement  
Balance Sheet  
and receipts

7. COMMUNITY

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Acceptance of budget and programme by the Government is awaited.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.i From Herd Improvement Organisation of Victoria agreeing to Group membership for H.I. Cooperatives at annual group fee of \$540

Council agreed

*The proposal be accepted and formal application for affiliation be sought on those terms.*

- 4.ii From Dept. Employment and Training forwarding cheque for \$10,000 for

Work Cooperatives Newsletter	4,000
Work Cooperatives Workshop	5,000
Admin. costs Cooperative Fedn. for Work Cooperatives	
1.7.80 to 31.12.81	1,000
	<u>\$10,000</u>

5. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

were received from

Ballarat Employment Cooperative Ltd.  
Gippsland Tip Truck Hiring Cooperative Ltd.  
The Mid-Murray Producers Cooperative Society Ltd.  
Terang & District Cooperative Society Ltd.  
Warrnambool Cooperative Society Ltd.

supported by application forms, annual reports, rules and affiliation dues.

The Council welcomed the 5 applicants into membership of the Federation.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of income and expenditure 1.7.80 to 30.4.81 and estimated Balance Sheet as at 30.4.81 were presented to the meeting, discussed and received.

7. COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- 7.i The Ministerial announcement of Victorian Government approval of \$700,000 to help development community employment cooperatives and the role of the Federation in the programme received press, radio and T.V. coverage. The programme is in line with submissions made by the Federation and its

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May 1981 commencing 7 p.m.

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Work Cooperative members.

- 7.ii Advertisements have been issued inviting applications for appointment as Community Cooperative Development Adviser funded by the State Government on the staff of the Federation.

It was agreed

*the selection committee to interview applicants would comprise Messrs. Long, Griffiths, Gill and Rawlinson.*

- 7.iii A submission has been made to the Department of Employment and Training costing the provision of this service at \$35,500 for first year.

- 7.iv The Minister has invited 3 representatives from the Federation including two Work Cooperative representatives to be members of the Funding Committee to consider disbursement of approved funds to applicant Employment Cooperatives.

- 7.v The Federation, on behalf of Work Cooperatives, has organised a residential Workshop in Ballarat for Employment groups and Cooperatives on 23rd and 24th May. 64 nominations have been received for the Workshop whose costs are being subsidised by the Victorian Government.

- 7.vi The Council recorded its appreciation to

David Griffiths, Dept. Employment & Training  
Tony Gill - on behalf of Work Cooperatives  
W. W. Rawlinson

for their efforts to achieve this Government recognition for Cooperatives and the Federation.

The Council also directed that the next Federation Newsletter should publicise this Development Programme and the role and responsibilities of employment Cooperatives in accepting this Government assistance. The involvement of C.F.V. in the Programme should also be publicised.

## 8. LEGISLATION

A detailed submission incorporating recommendations of the legislation committee and requests from member Cooperatives was submitted to the Registrar outlining the Federation's proposals for changes to the Draft Proposals for re-enactment of the Co-operation Act.

Council directed

- (i) *the submission be reconsidered by the legislation committee so far as reference to proposed new Sections 59 (3), 59 (4) are concerned.*

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11. REPORTS  
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(ii) clarification be sought concerning eligibility under the proposed new Act for Trading Cooperatives to engage in Real Estate Business.

Mr. Long undertook to obtain agreement of the Registrar for a discussion with him on the Federation's submission.

9. CENTRAL BANKING

Mr. Slattery reported having discussed the experiences of Cooperative Federation N.S.W. in their development of central banking services. These discussions are to be continued in Sydney on 12th June.

10. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Executive Officer reported that due to the unavailability of the Government Pavilion at the R.A.S. Showground a reservation has been made at the Olympia Room, Olympic Park. A revised programme of speakers is in preparation following the unavailability of 4 of those previously agreed by Council.

11. REPORTS

11.i Advisory Council

Mr. Long reported this Council met on 14th May.

The present proposal is for the Bill for a new Co-operation Act to be introduced into the Parliament in the opening weeks of the 1981 Spring session.

The Registrar is represented on the Government Funding Committee of the Community Employment Cooperative Development Programme.

Consideration is being given to raising interest rates on Government guaranteed loans in the light of current higher interest rates.

11.ii Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported on proposals for a merger of Moe Cooperative Dairying Co. with Drouin Cooperative Butter Factory.

Since the last meeting his time has been occupied with visits to N.S.W. planning the International Study Course and with planning and organising the Employment Cooperatives Workshop at Ballarat.

11.iii Cooperative Federation of Australia

Mr. Slattery reported on his attendance at a meeting of a C.F.A. Committee held in Sydney comprising the Presidents



of the Cooperative Federations of N.S.W. and W.A. and himself, convened to consider closer relationships of C.F.A. with A.F.C.U.L.

13.

That meeting agreed an immediate priority objective of the C.F.A. should be the protection of present taxation benefits for Cooperatives.

14.

That meeting also discussed the merits of restructuring the C.F.A. to make more effective use of resources by establishing one National Federation to which all Cooperatives in Australia could affiliate with necessary State services being provided through State Boards and current staff being employed by the national body for service on a regional basis. The importance of maintaining State services at least at present level with the anticipation of increasing such services was emphasised. The State Board would appoint two representatives to a national board which, in turn, would be responsible for allocation of resources of funds and staff to areas of most need.

In discussion, Council expressed support for the concept but could not see that such a restructuring would provide any services that have not always been available.

Such a structure could present problems of division of funds between States. It could also be more concerned with the larger Cooperative whose benefits from Taxation concessions are larger.

Legislative provisions have now been included to enable the Federation of Victoria to become an incorporated body. Progress is being made in our relations with State Government. A restructuring as proposed could be counter-productive in Victoria.

The meeting agreed the maximum involvement of major Cooperatives is essential to provide funds to service the many needs of the smaller Cooperatives.

It was agreed Mr. Slattery should have further discussion in the C.F.A. Committee on 12th June following which Council would study any practical proposals that might be submitted by C.F.A.

Mr. Slattery reported the meeting with A.F.C.U.L. representatives had otherwise been inconclusive.

## 12. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported having met the Secretary, Cooperative Dairy Factories Association from which it appears unlikely that there will be group affiliation of Cooperative Dairy Companies with the Federation.



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13. NEXT MEETING

This was set for Monday, 22nd June 1981 commencing 7 p.m.

14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.15 p.m.

*pubbly* 22-6-81